

**For Such Is The Kingdom Of God** (Mark 10:13-16)

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For Such is the Kingdom of God Mark 10:13-16  
An Episcopal church in one of its publications, revealed some answers given to church school questions by children. They were beautifully answered. One answered "Noah's wife was Joan of Arc" The fifth commandment? "The fifth commandment is to humor your father & mother. One of my favorites: Who was Lot's wife? "Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night." When they were studying church history, one child said, "The Pope lives in a vacuum." One little girl said

- A Christian can have only one wife. This is called "monotony". These little humorous quotes seem to display the innocence and purity of a child. In our text the Lord Jesus is taking the display of these children and teaching them and his disciples Kingdom Characteristic truths. Everyone of us must identify the essential characteristics portrayed in this text to ensure a position in the Kingdom Jesus is referring to.

I. The Negative Characteristics of the Encounter  
The placement of this scene reminds me of the embarrassing little rhyme: Pennie & Cary sitting in a tree, K-i-s-s-i-n-g. First comes love then comes marriage then comes a white horse w/ a Red Cavalier 11-11-11



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A. Mistaken Perception - Their eyes their perception was was mistaken. These mothers were trying to get their babies to Jesus. <sup>very hard for them</sup> <sup>technically</sup> there was a need, a persistent need that was intruding their sphere of service and yet they saw it as a nuisance. How could and callus of them to shove these babies aside. But how often we overlook the

B. Misplaced Preoccupation - What is at the forefront of the minds of Jesus' disciples. Where were they heading. There was the intersection with destiny that lie ahead at Jerusalem! The Cross. The conflict ahead. They could probably sense the gravity of the burden that Jesus bore.

We are taunted by the world as a pie in the sky

C. Misread Precept - I had a basketball coach that would kick basketballs and throw clip boards and say if you guys would just listen to me we could win some games. In just the previous chapter Jesus sat a child in the midst and said Ch 9:37. We should not neglect the word of God. Jesus' reaction was that of <sup>indignation</sup> rebuke and

II. The Necessary Characteristics of the Entrance

Jesus now openly publically rebukes his disciples. Completely contradicts what to their minds was a necessary activity and in doing so shows their salvation. That's

- 1) ...over look the lost and needy world around us. How we grumble and complain that we wished certain folks wouldn't cuss or act like they do. This is embarrassing the family when in actuality it is the manifesting of a spiritual need! Or any kind of need for that matter!
- 2) ...pie in the sky, by and by, when I die when I die" kind of religion. With so many just looking off in the distant future and ignoring the needs of the nasty now and now. Jude expressed this present compassion: Jude 1:22-23 And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

1) ...into the kingdom, and then the ring of the gospel is clearly heard, No your going the wrong way! It's not how high you can get, it is how low you can get.

2) ...this is the description of the broken sinner coming to Jesus. Humbled by the weight of sin, obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3) ...come to Jesus with the eye of suspicion.



What he does to world. Then making their way to Kingd<sup>①</sup>  
A. Childlike Discription - That word  
suffer, means 'permit or allow'. Don't hinder  
them don't block them off. For inside of  
these approaching children are the  
qualities of those that will enter into  
my Kingdom. He's talking about heaven &  
hell business. Eternal life & eternal damnation.  
How would we describe children. Children  
are humble. Now some are not so due to rearing  
of parents. But most children by nature know  
their not running the show and know their place.  
For the most part children are submissive & obedient. ③

B. Childlike Demonstration - Jesus  
said, 'if you don't do it like they did it  
you'll not get in'. This phrase 'shall  
not enter' is the strongest emphatic  
negation, "in no way what's so ever" enter  
the Kingdom. So what did these children  
do. The faith and trust of a child is  
demonstrated here. W. Wiershe said "A child  
enjoys much but can explain little". Children  
live by faith, trusting others care. They've  
not been hindered to keep the world suspect  
and at arms length. But the trust. You can't ③

III. The Nurturing Characteristics of the  
Embrace. Characteristic of all those that  
have come to know and trust Jesus is  
the embrace that is experienced. This

embrace of God's love is experienced by all that  
A. A Changing Position - These approaching children who were at one time rejected and refused are now welcomed, and immediately lifted, lifted from a lowly position of sin and shame.

The psalmist David said in Ps 40. From sinking sand He lifted me, with tender hand and where did he lift me to Eph 2:6 and Gal 3

B. A Compassionate Placement - He placed his hands on them. I was looking at some video of the kids today of when they were babies. I remember that tender way carey would hold them. That careful embrace of safety and provision! That's the way God carries his children - not in a cold distant fashion but close + personal

C. A Caring Pronouncement - He blessed them. The language suggests that he fervently blessed them and kept on blessing them. Expositors said "Jesus took each child in His arms one by one and blessed them. Oh his blessings are unceasing his mercies a new every morning. What are his blessings! Eph 1:3

V. Close. I know a lot of people in churches that are childish. That's not what we are aiming at. Kingdom members are childlike in character are you?



- 1) Psalms 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.
- 2) ....With tender hand, He lifted me, From shades of night to planes of light, O praise His name, He lifted me!
- 3) Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
- 4) Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.
- 5) Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: What are they? He chose us, forgave us, adopted us, accepted us, redeemed us, purposed us, saved us enlightened us, purchased us... the list goes on and on...